IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, ~~which has a structure in which:~~ comprising:

a ceramic block comprising a plurality of [[a]] columnar porous ceramic ~~member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of~~ members each having a plurality of partition walls and a plurality of through holes ~~that are placed~~ separated by the partition walls and extending in parallel with one another in ~~the length~~ a longitudinal direction ~~with partition wall interposed therebetween such that said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates~~ of the columnar porous ceramic members, the through holes including ones plugged on an inlet side of the ceramic block and ones plugged on an outlet side of the ceramic block, the ceramic block having a circumferential surface extending in the longitudinal direction between the inlet side and the outlet side;

an adhesive layer adhering and interposed between the columnar porous ceramic members; and

a sealing layer sealing the circumferential surface of the ceramic block,

wherein the adhesive layer and the columnar porous ceramic members satisfy a relationship, ~~between a thermal expansion coefficient α_L of said adhesive layer and a thermal expansion coefficient α_F of said porous ceramic member is as follows:~~ $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$, where α_L is a thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer and α_F is a thermal expansion coefficient of the columnar porous ceramic members.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, ~~which has a structure in which:~~ comprising:

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a ceramic block comprising a plurality of [[a]] columnar porous ceramic ~~member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of~~ members each having a plurality of partition walls and a plurality of through holes ~~that are placed~~ separated by the partition walls and extending in parallel with one another in ~~the length~~ a longitudinal direction ~~while partition wall interposed therebetween such that said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates~~ of the columnar porous ceramic members, the through holes comprising ones plugged on an inlet side of the ceramic block and ones plugged on an outlet side of the ceramic block, the ceramic block having a circumferential surface extending in the longitudinal direction between the inlet side and the outlet side;

an adhesive layer adhering and interposed between the columnar porous ceramic members; and

a sealing member sealing the circumferential surface of the ceramic block,

wherein the adhesive layer has Young's modulus of ~~said adhesive layer is set to~~ 60% or less of Young's modulus of [[said]] the porous ceramic ~~member~~ members, and the adhesive layer and the columnar porous ceramic members satisfy a relationship, ~~between a thermal expansion coefficient α_L of said adhesive layer and a thermal expansion coefficient α_F of said porous ceramic member is as follows:~~ $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, where α_L is a thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer and α_F is a thermal expansion coefficient of the columnar porous ceramic members.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst ~~supported thereon~~ which purifies at least one of CO, HC and NO_X in the exhaust gases.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, further comprising a catalyst ~~supported thereon~~ which purifies at least one of CO, HC and NO$_X$ in the exhaust gases.

Claim 5 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a foaming material in an amount sufficient such that the thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$.

Claim 6 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a thermoplastic resin in an amount sufficient such that the thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$.

Claim 7 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a thermosetting resin in an amount sufficient such that the thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$.

Claim 8 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a plurality of balloons comprising an inorganic substance in an amount sufficient such that the thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$.

Claim 9 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a plurality of balloons comprising an organic substance in an amount sufficient such that the thermal expansion coefficient of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0$.

Claim 10 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a foaming material in an amount sufficient such that at least one of the thermal expansion coefficient and Young's modulus of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, and 60% or less of Young's modulus of the porous ceramic members.

Claim 11 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a thermoplastic resin in an amount sufficient such that at least one of the thermal expansion coefficient and Young's modulus of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, and 60% or less of Young's modulus of the porous ceramic members.

Claim 12 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a thermosetting resin in an amount sufficient such that at least one of the thermal expansion coefficient and Young's modulus of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, and 60% or less of Young's modulus of the porous ceramic members.

Claim 13 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a plurality of balloons comprising an inorganic substance in an amount sufficient such that at least one of the thermal expansion coefficient and Young's modulus of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, and 60% or less of Young's modulus of the porous ceramic members.

Claim 14 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive material and the adhesive material includes a plurality of balloons comprising an organic substance in an amount sufficient such that at least one of the thermal expansion coefficient and Young's modulus of the adhesive layer is adjusted to satisfy the relationship, $0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0$, and 60% or less of Young's modulus of the porous ceramic members.